

**Shrink-Wrap Casket Shield**

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

The present Application claims priority to Provisional Application 60/171,141  
5 filed on December 16, 1999.

**FIELD OF INVENTION**

This invention relates to the art of mortuary science, and in particular, to a shield to protect the Mausoleum crypt chamber, adjacent chambers, crypt fronts, the building  
10 on the whole and any persons visiting the building.

**BACKGROUND OF INVENTION**

In mortuary science, there is a need for a ventilated enclosure which is impenetrable to insects such as crypt gnats (Phorid flies) and that will contain and help  
15 evaporate any fluids that may escape from the casket.

**SUMMARY OF INVENTION**

This invention encompasses a casket, enclosed by a shrink-wrap shield fitted with a ventilation port which allows for the passage of gases but not for the passage of crypt  
20 gnats. This invention encompasses a method of creating a ventilated enclosure which is impenetrable to insects such as crypt gnats. This invention encompasses a method of shrink-wrapping a casket with plastic suitable for shrink wrapping, comprising steps of wrapping the casket with said plastic, sealing all seams to prevent fluid seepage, applying heat to seal the plastic about the casket, and inserting a ventilation port comprising a special screen material

which is completely impenetrable to crypt gnats but which allows flow of substances in the gas phase.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The present invention and its presently preferred embodiments will be better  
5 understood by way of reference to the detailed disclosure hereinbelow and to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 Diagram giving suggested method of wrapping the casket

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

This invention overcomes problems associated with the entombment of  
10 caskets in aboveground mausoleum crypts. This invention provides protection for the Mausoleum crypt chamber, adjacent chambers, crypt fronts, the building on the whole and any persons visiting the building from contact with any fluids that may escape from caskets due to decomposition of material within the casket. This Mausoleum crypt protector also  
15 protects from any phorid fly infestations. This is accomplished by shrink wrapping the casket to be entombed with a plastic, then sealing the wrapped plastic with shrink wrap tape and providing two way ventilation by placing a ventilation filter that is impenetrable to the phorid fly. This allows for evaporation of any liquid that may seep from the casket. This wrapping takes place on a tray that is then used to transport the wrapped casket into a crypt without  
20 damaging the wrap. This wrap may be transparent, which transparency aids in casket identification.

A shrink-wrap casket shield is provided for enclosing caskets within a barrier that is impenetrable to crypt gnats (Phorid Flies). The invention involves enclosing a casket within a shrink-wrap plastic enclosure that is sealed except for a ventilation port that permits  
25 air to flow into and out of the enclosure through a screen that is impenetrable to crypt gnats.

The shrink-wrap casket shield differs from U.S. Patent No. 4,922,590 ("Yearsley") in that the casket is not hermetically sealed within the shrink-wrap casket shield. Yearsley is directed to hermetically sealing the casket within an enclosure. In contrast, the present invention is based on the theory that a practical casket enclosure system preferably 5 allows air to be able to continuously flow in either direction into and out of the casket enclosure with the proviso that means are provided for adequately assuring that the casket shield is impenetrable to crypt gnats.

For this purpose, as an illustrative embodiment of the invention, the casket may be wrapped in a sheet of plastic such as used for shrink wrapping boats for winter 10 storage. Such plastic sheets are commercially available, for example, as Shrink-Wrap from Buffalo Shrink-Wrap, East Amherst, NY, 14051, specifically 5-7 mil, clear shrink-wrap, having part number 720298C. After wrapping the casket within the plastic sheet, the sheets may be completely sealed and shrink wrapped using known methods for shrink wrapping large objects in plastic sheets, for example, with application of a heat gun.

15 Optionally, all seams are sealed with tape made for sealing seams which is commercially available. An example is tape available from Buffalo Shrink-Wrap, East Amherst, NY 14051, which is in 4" or 6" widths, having part number BSW6180C.

A ventilation port is provided in the plastic shield that permits two-way flow 20 of air into and out of the enclosure, for example, using a ventilator such as described in U.S. Patent No. 4,537,119, wherein the ventilator includes a special screen material that is completely impenetrable to crypt gnats but penetrable to air flow in either direction. The ventilator may be obtained from Airlette Manufacturing Corporation of Lantana, FL, and the screen material that is impenetrable to crypt gnats (and is corrosion resistant under the contemplated use) is commercially available, for example, as Monofilament Screening from 25 Synthetic Industries, Performance Fabric Division, Gainesville, GA 30503, specifically as

Style #69515000, having a warp of 52 x 52 threads/inch according to ASTM D3775. The opening size for this fabric is 285 microns. The open area of this fabric is 34%. The invention works for a fabric of opening size less than 285 microns, such that there is a two-way flow of air through the fabric. One may use an opening size 250 microns. In a different 5 embodiment, one could use a corrosion-resistant mesh of size -325 mesh.

The components that are required for the shrink-wrap casket shield may be readily obtained from known sources and conveniently packaged in a kit for distribution and shipping to the desired location for convenient on-site assembling of the components. The kit may comprise, for example, a plastic sheet clearly marked with lines showing where the 10 casket is to be placed and with simple, easy-to-follow instructions for enclosing the casket within the shrink-wrap shield., and a transparent or colored plastic sheet of a size that will wrap any casket that will fit in a typical modern Mausoleum Crypt and be clearly marked.

An embodiment of a method comprises the following steps:

Place Casket This Side

---

15

1. Place casket protector in tray lining up line with edge of tray. (Diagram)
2. Place casket in tray. Attach identification tag to casket.
3. Fold casket protector over casket and trim off excess to the bottom of the tray.  
(Diagram)

20

4. Make side folds. (Diagram)
5. Apply heat. Start at one end and continue down the length finishing at other end.  
(Keep heat moving at all times) (Press seams with gloved hand to ensure good seal)
6. Apply heat shrink tape to all seams. Heat tape being careful to avoid overheating.